

THE MEDICAL NEWS AND LIBRARY.

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MALGAIGNE'S OPERATIVE SURGERY,

TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

MEDICAL PROGRESS.

Proceedings of the Medical Society of Northampton County (Penn.), Annual Meeting, January.—Present Drs. Cook, Green, Field, Hollinshead, Innes, Lachenour, Swift, Seip, and Zulick. Dr. S. C. Cook, one of the Vice-Presidents, in the Chair.

Doctor James Cavanaugh, of South Easton, was elected a member of the Society, and participated in the proceedings.

A letter from Dr. Joseph K. Swift, acknowledging his election as an honorary member, was received by the Society.

The Committee to enumerate the medical practitioners of the County reported thirty-four regular practitioners, and seventeen irregular practitioners—followers of the various false systems of medicine.

The Committee on Epidemics, et cet., were not prepared to report, and were continued, with Dr. Stout as their Chairman, and instructed to report in July next.

Dr. Thomas Dillard, U. S. N., and Prof. Samuel D. Gross, of New York University, were elected honorary members.

All business connected with the support of the professional character of the members of the Society was referred to Doctors Green, Zulick, Lachenour, Innes, and Cavanaugh,

with instructions to report at a special meeting of the Society.

Officers elected for the present year:—

President.—Robert E. James.

Vice-Presidents.—Silas C. Cook, George Klinefelter.

Recording Secretary.—Traill Green.

Corresponding Secretary.—S. Morton Zulick.

Treasurer.—Charles Innes.

Delegates to the State Medical Society.—

Doctors Hollinshead, Cook, James, Cavanaugh, and E. Swift.

Delegates to the National Medical Association.—Doctors Field, Green, Lachenour, Seip, and Cavanaugh.

Members of the Society.—A. Stout, Charles Innes, Amos Seip, W. E. Barnes, R. E. James, Z. Drake, Daniel Lachenour, Joseph K. Swift, C. C. Field, L. D. Gray, Traill Green, John C. Mulhallen, J. G. Scholl, A. Sellers, F. Hollinshead, George Klinefelter, Silas C. Cook, Edward Swift, James Cavanaugh, H. H. Abernethy, E. Schlough, S. Morton Zulick.

A special meeting of the Society will be held on the third Monday (21st) of April next.

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If In no case will this work be sent unless the money is paid in advance.

This should pay postage as one newspaper.

VOL. IX.—3

Extract from the Minutes of the Erie Co. (Penn.) Med. Society.—At a meeting on February 4th, 1851, an election was held for delegates to the State Society and American Medical Association, which resulted as follows:—

To State Society.—Drs. Beebe, Perkins, M. J. Johnson, and James H. Stuart.

To the American Medical Association.—Dr. J. L. Stewart.

The following resolutions were unanimously approved of by the society.

Resolved, That we regret to see the multiplicity of medical schools that now exist, having the power to *confer degrees*, and *grant diplomas*, and that, so far as our influence goes, we will oppose the further extension of their number within the bounds of our State.

The following resolutions were adopted, and a copy ordered to be laid before the State Medical Society, at the meeting in May next.

In consequence of the rapid and fearful increase of quacks, both with diplomas and without, in this our otherwise favoured country, some means for their extirpation, and that speedily, becomes imperatively necessary, both for the good of the community and of our honourable and useful profession.

Therefore, *Resolved*, that our delegates to the State Medical Society, to be held in Philadelphia, in May next, be instructed to use all their influence in that body to favour the project now on foot of creating a State Examining Committee, irrespective of schools and colleges, whose license, and that *alone* shall confer the rights to practice medicine in the State. And that they further be instructed to urge that the requirements of said committee shall be high, both as regards classical and literary as well as medical attainments, for medical men at present are fearfully deficient in these respects.

Resolved, That said delegates be also instructed to use their influence with the other members of said State Society, to induce them to set on foot for their respective districts, petitions to our State Legislature to the same effect, to be signed by all the *respectable* physicians within reach, and as many as possible of the *intelligent* laity.

Further, *Resolved*, That such a petition be drafted by a committee appointed by our honourable chairman, whose further duty it shall be to procure signatures, and at a fitting time, when they can so operate with

their brethren in different sections of the State, to forward such petition to our Representatives in the Senate and House, and request their aid in accomplishing this vitally important object.

And finally, *Resolved*, That each member consider himself specially bound to use all his influence with the laity to promote a measure without which, or some equivalent, our profession must soon become contemptible and ourselves a by-word.

Perry County Medical Society.—At a meeting of the Society held at Liverpool, Jan. 14th, 1851, the following were elected officers for the ensuing year:—

President.—Dr. A. C. Steese.

Vice-President.—Dr. T. G. Morris.

Treasurer.—Dr. J. E. Singer.

Recording Secretary.—Dr. W. G. Niblock.

Corresponding Secretary.—Dr. J. H. Case.

Delegates to the State Society.—Dr. A. C. Steese, P. S. P. Whitinde, and J. H. Case.

The Society has eighteen members.

Iowa State Medical and Chirurgical Society.—Pursuant to previous notice, a number of the members of the medical profession of the State of Iowa assembled in convention in the court room in the city of Burlington, on Wednesday the 19th day of June, 1850, for the purpose of organizing a State Medical Society.

The convention was called to order by appointing Dr. J. F. Sandford president, and Dr. E. D. Ransom secretary.

A constitution and by laws and code of ethics were adopted, and the convention then resolved itself into the Iowa State Medical and Chirurgical Society, the following officers being elected for the ensuing year:—

President.—Dr. E. Lowe.

Vice-Presidents.—Dr. D. S. McGugin, and Dr. J. Elbert.

Recording Secretary.—Dr. H. M. Matthews.

Corresponding Secretary.—Dr. J. F. Sandford.

Treasurer.—Dr. G. R. Henry.

Librarian.—Dr. J. F. Dillon.

The following gentlemen were elected censors: Dr. McGugin of Keokuk, Hull of Montrose, Flint and Elbert of Keosau-

qua, J. F. Henry, E. D. Ransom, and Brookbank of Burlington.

On motion of Dr. J. F. Sandford, the following resolutions were adopted:—

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to report on the causes which have contributed to depress the science, dignity, and influence of the medical profession in Iowa.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to report upon the medical topography, climate, and diseases of Iowa.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to report upon the medical and economical botany of Iowa.

Resolved, That these committees report at the next annual meeting of the Society.

The following gentlemen were then appointed those committees: under the first resolution, Drs. Sandford, Crockwell, and Cole; under the second resolution, Drs. J. F. Henry, A. F. Bruning, and Ford; under the third resolution, Drs. Brookbank, Rauch, and Dillon.

On motion of Dr. McGugin, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, Congress has wisely enacted laws inhibiting the introduction and sale of impure drugs and chemicals from abroad into this country; and whereas the practice of adulterating drugs is not confined to foreign countries, but is practiced to an alarming extent in our own; and as the law of Congress will prove incompetent to the suppression of this serious evil, unless aided by concordant legislative enactments in each State, and the emphatic denunciations of the public upon a practice calculated to thwart the best efforts of medical science, deteriorating to the health and the lives of the people: Therefore,

Resolved, That, in the opinion of the Society, the sale of adulterated drugs and chemicals should be speedily arrested; and to this end, the Legislature of the State of Iowa be memorialized at the coming session on the subject, and an appeal be made to those engaged in the trade within the limits of the State to supply the profession with pure and unadulterated medicines.

Resolved, That we hereby solemnly pledge ourselves to encourage those whose regard for the health and lives of the community, and the success of the medical profession, will prompt them to procure select medicines; and that when such can be obtained, we will purchase none other.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to memorialize the next legislature, in the name and on behalf of this Society, on this subject; whereupon, Drs. McGugin, Hudson, and E. D. Ransom were appointed that committee.

On motion of Dr. McGugin, the following resolution was adopted:—

Resolved, That, in order to promote the best interests of the profession, of community, and of mankind; and also to cultivate the social and scientific relations of its members, together with all the benefits flowing from concert of action, mutual interchange of opinion, and a better understanding of each other's character; and in order to render more effective the great objects of the State Society, we would recommend to our brethren in each county the formation of a Medical Society, in each auxiliary to the State Society.

Drs. Elbert and Witherman were appointed delegates to the American Medical Association in May next.

After the transaction of other matters of business, the society adjourned, to meet in Fairfield, Jefferson county, on the first Wednesday in May, 1851.

MEDICAL NEWS.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

Dr. Wilbur's Institution for the Education of Idiots.—This institution, located at Barre, Worcester Co., Massachusetts, one of the most healthy portions of New England, was the first of the kind in the United States, and we are gratified to learn, from the circular recently issued, that, after a trial of two years and a half, its philanthropic founder can say that his reasonable hope of success has not been disappointed either in obtaining suitable subjects for instruction, or in the progress and improvements they have manifested in return for his labours.

This institution is designed for the management and education of all children who by reason of mental infirmity are not fit subjects for ordinary school instruction.

It aims to nourish and encourage the growth of what may be mere germs of functions and faculties; to direct those functions and aptitudes in the natural channels of physical and mental labour; and to give to the subjects of it the greatest possible resem-

blance to children well endowed and properly educated.

But the system does not stop at the mere education of the force, dexterity, and intelligence of the pupil. It seeks, by the constant and persevering use of every variety of moral means, to render those newly acquired powers and faculties subservient to an enlightened sense of relations to the moral world.

Pupils are received from the ages of six to fourteen years, though the first named is the most desirable.

The terms vary according to the condition of each individual subject, the amount of trouble and care involved in their management and instruction, and can be learned by application to the Principal, Dr. H. B. WILBUR.

In the circular, Dr. W. gives an extremely interesting report of eight cases selected from the fifteen pupils that have been under his charge, illustrative of the variety of modes of instruction and management.

We commend this most useful institution to the attention of those who may have friends or relations of feeble intellectual development.

Assistant Surgeons U. States Navy.—The following Assistant Surgeons in the Navy, examined by the Medical Board recently convened at the Naval Asylum, Philadelphia, have been found qualified for promotion, and passed, viz:—

Robert T. Macoun, Passed Assistant Surgeon, to rank next after Passed Assistant Surgeon Richard McSherry.

William A. Harris, Passed Assistant Surgeon, to rank next after Passed Assistant Surgeon Robert E. Wall.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Henry O. Mayo, to rank next after Passed Assistant Surgeon William A. Harris.

Of the candidates examined for admission into the service as Assistant Surgeons, the following have been found qualified, viz:—

No. 1. Samuel F. Cowes, Portsmouth, N. H.

No. 2. Jacob S. Dungan, Philadelphia.

No. 3. George Peck, New York.

No. 4. Charles F. Fabs, York, Pennsylvania.

No. 5. Jenks H. Otis, Boston.

No. 6. Frederick Horner, Jr., Warrenton, Va.

No. 7. James B. Whiting, Norfolk, Va.
No. 8. Randolph Harrison, Cartersville, Va.

No. 9. W. E. Wysham, Baltimore, Md.

No. 10. Albert Shriver, Philadelphia, Pa.

No. 11. Thomas Le Page Cronmiller, Savage Factory, Maryland.

No. 12. E. Drayton, Philadelphia, Pa.

No. 13. William L. Nichol, Nashville, Tenn.

No. 14. John C. Coleman, Halifax Courthouse, Virginia.

No. 15. J. Page Hopkins, Winchester, Va.

No. 16. Richard H. Cowman, Annapolis, Md.

Prize Essay.—The Boston Society for Medical Observation, being authorized by a gentleman, not a member of the medical profession, who is desirous to make a thank-offering to it, hereby proposes a Prize of FIFTY DOLLARS for the best practical TREATISE ON CROUP AND ITS TREATMENT.

All dissertations must be accompanied by a sealed packet, on which shall be written some device or sentence, and within shall be enclosed the author's name and residence. The same device or sentence is to be written on the dissertation to which the packet is attached. All unsuccessful dissertations will be deposited with the Secretary of the Boston Society for Medical Observation, from whom they may be obtained with the sealed packet, unopened, if called for within a year after they have been received. All dissertations, moreover, must be legibly written, and forwarded, free of expense, by the first of July next, to one of the following gentlemen, who have been requested to act as judges.

JOHN WARE, M. D.,

President Massachusetts Med. Soc.

JOHN JEFFRIES, M. D.,

President Suffolk District Med. Soc.

EDW. H. CLARKE, M. D.,

Sec'y Boston Soc. for Med. Observation.

No prize will be awarded if no dissertation is thought worthy of one.

Judicial Knowledge of Anatomy.—[A reliable correspondent sends us the following statement:—]

Some of the south-western, and western judges (if we can believe newspaper reports) have caused much amusement by their ludicrous decisions and charges. Whether these

really emanated from the honoured bench or were concocted by heartless wags, we are unable to say, but we have lately heard a certain learned President Judge, of north-western Pennsylvania, make a remark whilst on the bench, that, in point of ludicrousness, cannot we think be equalled. A witness was on the stand, repeating, or pretending so to do, the language of a physician, in regard to a patient forty hours previous to death, and used the following expressions: "He (the Dr.) had said that the vagina and womb were highly inflamed—the Fallopian tubes, broad ligaments, and ovaries, very much irritated, and of a fiery red colour; witness understood the Dr. to say, that he had seen the Fallopian tubes, &c., before death, indeed he was certain the Dr. had said so, as no post-mortem examination was had in the case."

Here a number of physicians, who were present (the writer included), showed ill-suppressed signs of laughter, when his honour the Judge, by way of reproof, remarked, in a very solemn and dignified manner, that "the Doctor had no doubt used a *speculum* with which it would be easy to view the organs named."

New Method of Attracting Students.—It is stated, in the *Western Medico-Chirurgical Journal* (Dec. 1850), that the Evansville Medical College "has generously proposed to admit the Sons of Temperance at half their usual fees for tuition," and the Sons make their politest bow in return, and say that they have "no hesitancy in recommending the school as every way worthy of public confidence."

This has the merit of novelty at least, and may serve to swell the catalogue of students, and give the appearance of prosperity to the school if it does not add to its character or dignity, or fill the pockets of the professor. The distribution of gratuitous tickets has become too common now to answer the object originally aimed at.

Pennsylvania State Lunatic Asylum.—We announce with pleasure the appointment of Dr. JOHN CURWEN, as superintendent of this Asylum.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Anæsthesia and its Influence in Surgery.
—[The following remarks, in a late number

of the *Lancet* (Jan. 11), are worthy of consideration. One of the evils which has attended the introduction of anæsthesia in surgical practice, the multiplication of useless or unjustifiable operations, is properly and forcibly denounced.]

When anæsthesia was first introduced into the practice of surgery, it was justly hailed as a most valuable boon to suffering humanity. The knife of the surgeon lost, as it were by magic, all its terrors. When the sufferer for the first time was presented to the eye of the spectator, lying passive under the influence of chloroform, how strongly was marked out the difference between the sensible and the insensible object of operative procedure. There was no longer witnessed the cry of agony issuing from the frail body of some poor nervous, emaciated woman, whose breast was about to be submitted to the knife; nor the scarcely less painful effect of subdued emotion in the strong frame, while it quivered under the strokes of the scalpel. The surgeon now has not to contend against these calls upon his humanity, and his responsibility is not increased by knowing that, whilst he is performing a painful duty, he is inflicting great, though necessary pain. There lies the patient, under the influence of the Lethæan vapour, revelling perhaps in dreams of happiness, whilst the operator is employed in removing a limb, or dragging away some portion of necrosed bone—the patient not being the least sensible of either the pain or the danger of the operation.

Such are some of the more prominent benefits which chloroform has conferred upon sufferers from disease. Like all such blessings, however, it has its drawbacks and evils, amongst the more conspicuous of which may be mentioned the facility with which patients are now persuaded to submit to the knife, and the encouragement which it holds out to what are called "promising young men" to "carve their way into practice." But for chloroform, it is scarcely to be believed that some of the formidable operations for the removal of ovarian tumours would have been resorted to when other and more justifiable means have been devised for their relief, or that the head of the thigh would have been submitted to the knife and the saw with as much nonchalance as though it were being removed from the dead body in the dissecting-room. The reports of discussions in the medical societies during the

past session are frightfully illustrative of this operating mania. The "exploration," as it called, of an ovarian tumour, by an incision through the walls of the abdomen, is regarded in no more formidable light than the application of the stethoscope; and an incision from the ensiform cartilage to the pubis is declared to be an innocent proceeding. How are we to show this? Not in the published records of the operations, for in these only the successful cases are brought under notice, whilst the instances in which the patient has succumbed are buried in oblivion. Can it be true, as is currently reported, that the statistics of what is called ovariotomy are mere attempts to blink the question, and that the results have been so unfortunate that the practitioners who have performed the operation dare not tell the truth upon the subject? However this may be, rumour asserts this as the motive which influences certain operators in withholding from their professional brethren the results of their experience. With this, indeed, they have been openly charged in the first medical society of the kingdom. Can it be true? The silence that has followed the charge makes it evident that in some particular instances there must be strong motives for concealment. The publisher of unsuccessful cases, be these what they may, is, at all events, to be lauded for his candour. He may have erred in judgment, but his honesty must be held to be unimpeachable.

But what are we to say to those operators, honest as they may be, who have performed operations for which there is no justification, and which cannot be mentioned without exciting our strongest feelings of reprobation? An operation which has been denounced by BRODIE, SYME, and COULSON may justly be suspected; but what shall we say to such an operation when performed under the painful and pitiable circumstances as are alluded to in our Report of the Medical Society of London last week. We do not wish to enlarge upon this really distressing subject; but public duty demands that such operations should be held out as beacon-lights to the young surgeons of this empire, to warn them from pursuing a course which must eventually terminate in their discomfiture. With the grave thinkers and the great operators of our time, the resort to the knife has been always regarded as an opprobrium upon the skill of the surgeon; not so with some of the young gentlemen who would vainly as-

pire to walk in the footsteps of a COOPER or a LISTON. Let them remember, however, that these eminent members of our profession owed less of their just fame to their successful use of the knife than to the exercise of those acquirements and that sagacity which enabled them to select the proper cases for operation. Such men as these did not operate for the sake of cutting: they resorted to the knife only as a substitute, and that, to them, a lamentable one, for other less successful, but always employed, resources of surgery.

Chloroform and Ether.—Dr. MARSHALL HALL stated to the Medico-Chirurgical Society, Dec. 10, 1850, that he divided the effects of chloroform into three stages: in the first of which voluntary motion is diminished; the second, in which respiration fails; and the third, in which circulation fails;—and from the quickness of its fatality in experiments on animals, considered it a most fearful poison. He feared many of its fatal results in private practice have not been made known, and considered, if its influence is carried beyond its effects on the cerebrum, its application was certainly dangerous. In cases of asphyxia there are more efforts of expiration than of inspiration. He thought it was ill judged to have changed from ether to chloroform, as the former is less dangerous, and as capable of producing anæsthesia. —*London Med. Gaz.*, Dec. 1850.

Use of Anæsthetic Agents in Ancient China.—STANISLAS JULIAN has found, in examining the Chinese books in the National Library at Paris, the proof that the Chinese have been long acquainted with the use of anæsthetic agents during surgical operations. The extract which he gives is from a book published about the commencement of the sixteenth century, in fifty vols. quarto, and entitled "Kow-Kiu-i-tong," "General Account of Ancient and Modern Medicine," and refers to the practice of a celebrated physician, Ho-a-tho, who flourished between the years 220 and 230 of our era. It states, when about to perform certain painful operations, "he gave the patient a preparation of hemp" (hachich), and that, at the end of a few moments, "he became as insensible as if he had been drunk or deprived of life." After a certain number of days the patient was cured, without having experienced the slightest pain during the

operation. In a subsequent notice, he also adds that the same physician used the hydropathic system as a cure for certain diseases, among others, chronic rheumatism.—*Edinburgh Philosophical Journal*.—*Ibid*.

Gunshot Wound in the Region of the Heart.—M. DEGUISE exhibited to the Surgical Society of Paris a pathological specimen, of which the following is a brief account:—

An individual was found in the Forest of Vincennes having an extensive wound in the chest: he was taken to the Hospital of Charenton, where he died in about half an hour. On the level of the left breast was an opening of about three centimetres in diameter (≈ 1.181 Eng. inch), through which the interior of the chest was visible. Portions of the third, fourth, and fifth ribs were removed. The cavity of the pleura contained very little blood. The pericardium presented an opening anteriorly. A bullet was seen to have pierced the wall of the left ventricle, which it had traversed for some distance, but without having entered the cavity of the heart; then passing out, it had again passed through the pericardium posteriorly, and, piercing the lung, was found lodged on the left side of the vertebral column, near the eighth and ninth ribs. The ball was small and round. Near the person of the deceased had been found a brace of small pocket pistols, which had both been recently discharged.

The most remarkable points in this case were the great extent of the injuries inflicted, the absence of hemorrhage from the lungs, and the duration of life several hours after the receipt of such injuries.—*London Med. Gaz.*, Dec. 1850.

Sulphuret of Soda as a Depilatory.—M. BOUDER states, as the results of numerous investigations, that the arsenic contained in the sulphuret, which forms a part of so many depilatories, is not the essential ingredient, and that an innocuous substance, the sulphuret of soda, may be substituted with great advantage. He therefore proposes the following formula:—sulphuret of sodium, or crystallized hydrosulphate of soda, three parts; quicklime, in powder, ten; starch, eighteen. Moistened with a little water, this becomes so powerful a depilatory, that, if removed, in one or two minutes, with a

wooden spatula, it leaves the skin quite hairless. Independently of its use in removing abnormal villosity, it is of great service in preparing hairy parts for blisters or operations. It is applicable to the most delicate and irregular surfaces, and of whatever extent, the hair only reappearing after several days.—*Journ. de Pharmacie*, xviii. p. 119. —*Med.-Chir. Rev.*, Jan. 1851.

Medical Ethics.—We extract the following eloquent and just observations relative to the intellectual and moral qualifications which are essential to the worthy exercise of medicine as an art, to the proper social position of the medical profession, and to the maintenance of desirable relations among its members, from an interesting editorial article in the *Medical Times* (Dec. 21, 1850).

First, then, we affirm that a high personal character, an elevated tone of feeling, and careful moral culture, are absolutely requisite to form a worthy practitioner of medicine. There is no profession which is so much calculated to try our moral qualities, by bringing us into complex and difficult moral relations with others. The patience and temper of the medical practitioner are continually tried by the fretfulness of illness, by the monotony of iterated complaint, by the garrulity of age, by the childishness of imbecility, by the impertinences of the vulgar, the curiosity of the idle, the prejudices of the ignorant. His equanimity is invaded by the anxieties, the misgivings, the despondency, the agitation, of those who suffer, and of those who are interested in them. His presence of mind and self-dependence are severely tested by sudden dangers, and startling emergencies, and fearful perturbations: by the casualty which crushes manhood in its prime of vigour and usefulness; the attempted suicide; the mental tempest, and moral wreck of madness. His fortitude and his confidence in his own art are sternly taxed by the frequent frustration of his best and wisest efforts. His cheerfulness and tranquillity of mind are overcast by the clouds of sorrow, by the dull night of hopelessness, and the shadow of the tomb settling on all around him. Amid all these troubles and contingencies he must stand unshaken, yet sympathizing; serene and gentle, yet active, authoritative, and energetic; anxious, and often perplexed himself, yet guiding others in their perplexity, and cheering them in their despondency—himself too heavily

laden, yet aiding others to sustain their burden.

The medical practitioner also must be in the highest degree discreet and trustworthy; he is the depository of more secrets even than the priest, and the peace of many families, and thence the welfare of whole communities, may be entrusted to his keeping.

Is a man of a narrow heart, of a grovelling mind, fit for such ministrations, or worthy of such trust? Surely not. We have here need of one whose being is lofty and spiritualized—purified from the dross of the world—conscious of his high mission, and of his own capacity to fulfil it.

If there be any truth in these views, it follows that a most essential part of medical education consists in preliminary moral culture; and that, in fact, the very first inquiry to be made in reference to the candidate for medical honours or medical licenses, is, not whether he have studied classics or philosophy—not whether he understand anatomy or chemistry—not whether he have heard lectures or walked hospitals; but whether he can produce unquestionable testimonials of high personal character, and proofs of fine moral culture—whether, in a word, there be good reason to believe that he is individually fit for so serious and so responsible a calling as that of medicine.

We further assert that extensive scientific attainments, classical learning, and general literature, are absolutely necessary to form an accomplished member of the medical profession—to maintain that profession in its proper social position—and thence to confer upon it its full influence and its full extent of usefulness. We have already admitted that neither much learning nor extensive knowledge of scientific principles is indispensably requisite for the successful treatment of common cases of disease: without either, a man may be a decent *routinier*. But there is a wide difference between being able to practice an art in its common-place details, and being capable of enlarging the limits of the science on which that art depends; and we cannot regard any one as an accomplished practitioner of medicine unless he be in a position to avail himself of such opportunities of scientific discovery and improvement as may arise in the course of his practice. Now, what is scientific medicine? Simply the application of natural science, in its widest range, to the preservation of

health, and the cure or alleviation of disease. Hence the medical practitioner who is not versed in the general principles of science can never be more than a mere workman. The only chance he can have of adding to the stock of knowledge lies in recording the powers of some new remedy, or the advantages of some particular plan of treatment; and even here his observations will probably turn out to be erroneous, from the want of correct habits of observing, and of the power of accurate deduction. Add to all these considerations, that medicine being one of the most difficult subjects to which the human mind can be applied, great benefit must in most instances be derived, even in mere practice, from the acuteness and versatility of mind and faculty produced by philosophical discipline, and scientific habits of inquiry and operation.—*Med. Times*, Dec. 21.

Spontaneous Generation.—M. Gros, of Heidelberg, has communicated to the Institute the substance of some curious researches relative to an animalcule which, according to the learned author, is developed spontaneously in the frog's bladder. The animalcule now alluded to has been denominated by M. Gros "*torquatina*." It is produced by the mucous membrane of the bladder, which detaches a granule; this granule becomes the crown of the animalcule, while the neighbouring vesicles become the body. To follow the development of the animalcule, it is necessary to take a small bit of the mucous membrane without injuring it, and then place it very cautiously under the microscope. Any pressure or solvent, even serum, will kill the animalcules. If these precautions be observed, the development of the animalcule may be followed. A mere unorganized granule is detached from the mucous membrane; this coalesces with other granules to form a certain portion of the animalcule; the latter then folds up its crown, fixes a number of vibratile cilia in various parts of its body, becomes oval, and constitutes an *opalina*. This latter forms a nidus in the mucosities of the intestine, deposits an egg, and the latter gives rise to a true worm of the *ascaris* kind.

If the above observations be correct, we must admit for certain entozoa a primitive species of generation different from any hitherto known.—*Med. Times*, Nov. 16, 1850.